



## Maritime Heritage Working Group

### *Meeting Minutes*

**Date:** 06/13/2011

**Start Time:** 3:00 PM

**End Time:** 4:00 PM

**Meeting Method:** Conference call;

**Attendance:** Leader: Teri Leicher; Hans Van Tilburg, Larry Widhelm, Jean Souza, Terry O'Halloran, Becky Hommon, Dick Gould

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- Site sensitivity—publically known sites might be part of the public inventory. Sensitive sites (or new sites) might not be part of the public inventory.
- Federal agencies are under statutory regulations not to disclose locations of sensitive sites. If someone gives agency a position, OK, but agency does not publicize positions (see “pot-hunter” law).
- Previous comments on State’s role in preservation (Drennan 052311) and NHPA sec106 responsibilities should be extended to include federal agency roles as well.
- Resource preservation underwater should be equated and approached the same way as archaeological resource preservation is treated on land. The Abandoned Shipwreck Act is hortatory in nature, without effective teeth. We should agree as a committee that our goal is to treat resource preservation underwater in a similar manner as it is treated on land.
- What type of outreach is needed? Include MH resource and preservation in existing sanctuary outreach and education efforts. Also create outreach and education materials specific to the MH resource.
- What type of research is needed? The inventory and assessment of resource sites (some of which has begun opportunistically) should be formally supported. Following the inventory and assessment of resource sites, monitoring of resources should be undertaken.
- There should be support for this, however that support should not threaten or compete with priority conservation goals like Humpback whales. Cost-saving measures and partnerships should be pursued (ORISE, JPAC, etc).
- What type of protections are needed? State and federal laws already “on the books” for resource protection underwater. Does sanctuary need to have a regulation? Examples of maritime heritage regulations for the sanctuary system sent out to group previously. Group should consider whether sanctuary should adopt the standard single sentence maritime heritage regulation.
- (additional email comment post call) Need to identify and take steps to preserve historic shipwreck sites under Sanctuary’s ownership or control. Examples of protection might be ways to stabilize and preserve historic shipwrecks in place, or recording and recovering sites when preservation in place is not possible.
- Efforts in resource protection should also include enlisting the support of the dive operators, and educating the public.



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#### Action Items

- Distribute minutes
- Develop summary recommendations (draft bullet points) prior to next meeting

**Next meeting:** 07/11/2011 at 3:00 PM